

Remarks

Claims 1-8 and 14-16 are pending. Applicant asserts that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephonic interview with the Examiner. During the interview, the claim language was discussed in relation to the 112 and 103 rejections. Particularly, the nature of a switching jack, its use in the claims, and its appearance in FIG. 7 were discussed. It was discussed that a switching jack itself, its connections, and its function are known to those of ordinary skill in this art. It was further discussed that the depiction of the switching jack of FIG. 7 is adequate for one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize the switching jack, its various connections, and its function in the circuit. It was asserted that because FIG. 7 is adequate to one of ordinary skill in the art who recognizes a switching jack, its connections and its functions, then it was adequate to support the language of the claims. It was further discussed that a switching jack is not a standard jack but is a jack that switches connection states based on whether a plug is inserted into it or not, and it was discussed that the Crawford reference discloses only standard jacks and does not disclose external series connections at all, regardless of switching jacks.

112 Rejections

Claims 1-8 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant contends that switching jacks themselves are known in the art. Applicant further contends that the manner in which the switching jacks are shown in FIG. 7 is instantly recognizable to one of ordinary skill in this art, especially considering that the specification does state that FIG. 7 contains switching jacks.

To provide evidentiary support for these contentions, Applicant has provided a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 which references a Celestion web page, a copy of which is also included. The Celestion web page contains a circuit schematic for connecting speakers, which is in the same field of endeavor as the circuit shown in FIG. 7. The

circuit of the Celestion reference also shows switching jacks drawn in the manner that they are shown in FIG. 7. FIG. 7 includes the input connections, shown as the + and -, as well as showing the four connection points. The Celestion reference does not bother to show the input connections but only shows the four connection points since one of skill in the art would know that such input connections exist, so FIG. 7 is even more complete than the Celestion reference regarding the input connections.

The Applicant has stated in the enclosed declaration that the Celestion circuit was available in the prior art before the filing of the present application to demonstrate that one of ordinary skill in the art would indeed recognize the switching jacks of FIG. 7 and would know their function in the circuit simply by viewing the FIG. 7. The claim language that involves the connectivity and functioning of the switching jacks is entirely supported by FIG. 7. One of ordinary skill in the art would immediately appreciate from FIG. 7 the wiring pathways as recited in the claims. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would immediately appreciate the mode switching of the switching jack which results in the changing of connectivity between the four connection points and the two inputs that are shown.

The most telling evidence is that should one of ordinary skill in the art construct a circuit as shown in FIG. 7 including the switching jacks as illustrated and referenced in the specification, the circuit will exist and function just as the claim language specifies. Constructing the circuit exactly as shown in FIG. 7 cannot be considered undue experimentation because it is simply constructing what is shown. Thus, FIG. 7 fully enables the claim language involving the circuitry and particularly the switching jacks.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-8 and 14-16 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Kang in view of Crawford. Regarding the language of the claim that relates to the circuitry and switching jacks, the Examiner has relied solely on Crawford. Applicant wishes to reiterate the same argument and asserts that a proper understanding of a switching jack, a series connection, and a parallel connection reveals that the Crawford reference is wholly inadequate.

While Crawford may disclose that speakers of multiple cabinets may be connected in parallel using the connectors of the cabinets, Crawford wholly omits any

description regarding providing a series connection. There is no discussion of a series connection to speakers of other cabinets in Crawford. In fact, the word series does not even appear. Accordingly, Crawford fails to meet the claim recitations for at least these reasons. Furthermore, Crawford wholly omits any description regarding the use of switching jacks. Recall that switching jacks are not standard connectors but instead change their internal connectivity between connection points and inputs based upon whether a plug is inserted or not. Thus, Crawford fails to meet the claim recitations for at least these reasons.

Additionally, the most recent claim amendments provided recitations regarding the electrical pathways between the switching jacks and the speaker. The recitations regarding the electrical pathway are not disclosed in Crawford, as Crawford is not equipped to utilize switching jacks nor to provide series connection possibilities in addition to parallel connection possibilities.

Therefore, for these several reasons, Crawford fails to meet the claim recitations regarding the circuitry such that Crawford fails to cure the deficiencies of the Kang reference. Therefore, the claims are allowable over the cited combination for at least these several reasons.

Regarding the Examiner's statement that it is well known in the art of electrical audio signal connection to connect a plurality of speaker cabinets in series and/or parallel, this statement indicates that there is a level of sophistication to what is being claimed that has been entirely overlooked. The claims are not merely reciting to connect cabinets in series or parallel. The claims are reciting the use of a switching jack that provides a series connection and another switching jack that provides a parallel connection. Thus, plugging a jack of one cabinet into the series switching jack results in the series connection while plugging a jack of one cabinet into the parallel switching jack results in the parallel connection. This is not merely connecting cabinets by wiring them together but involves the use of the switching jacks to allow the connectivity to change by merely inserting a plug into one jack or the other. Thus, the cabinets do not have to be re-wired since the switching jacks change states when the plug of the other cabinet is inserted or removed.

The manner in which these switching jacks must be connected, such as shown in FIG. 7, in order to achieve this result is not well known. Therefore, Applicant traverses the Official Notice since the use of switching jacks to provide a selection of a series connection or a parallel connection to a speaker cabinet as recited in the claims is not only NOT well known, Applicant contends that it is not even disclosed at all by the prior art.

Conclusion

Applicant asserts that the application including claims 1-8 and 14-16 is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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